



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

Michael Bruno, Provost
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SB 1252 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 1252 SD2 HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i John A Burns School of Medicine's (JABSOM) Department of Geriatric Medicine to provide coordination between the University of Hawai'i's programs that provide training on Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Hawai'i's aging population is increasing rapidly and approximately 31,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Recognizing these facts, JABSOM, the University of Hawai'i's Center for Aging, and the University of Hawai'i's Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health provide courses, and actively engage in educating and training students in Alzheimer's disease and dementia. For example, JABSOM's Department of Geriatric Medicine and Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) work with medical students, residents and fellows along with other allied health fields (i.e. social work, public health, and nursing) to build a geriatrics-capable medical workforce in the state and the Pacific Region which includes training in Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The GWEP collaborates with community partners to provide educational lectures and resources to local caregivers.

A number of programs currently exist within the University of Hawai'i System that provide training in Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Greater coordination between the various programs may be valuable in addressing specific training in caring for patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Implementation of this coordinated effort would require two (2) FTEs at JABSOM's Department of Geriatric Medicine, and an appropriation of approximately \$525,000.

JABSOM supports SB 1252 SD2 HD1, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.